

FY2004 Report of Accomplishments

Spokane Conservation District



Natural Resource Improvements in 2003 – Summary



In 2003, a significant change of attitude and level of awareness was recognized through information outreach, technical assistance, and on-the-ground conservation activities performed by the Spokane County Conservation District. This awareness created significant positive impact on the use and management of natural resources.

- *District outreach and educational programs such as public presentations, new releases, newsletters, radio/TV advertisements and interviews influenced 100 percent of Spokane County.*
- *100 percent of Spokane County is under ESHB 2514 watershed planning sponsored through the District and Spokane County.*
- *District watershed management programs and projects cover over 50 percent of the county landmass.*
- *Over 150,000 acres converted to no-till and/or minimum tillage practices.*
- *Approximately 15 miles of stream/river are under rehabilitation or conservation easement programs.*

Mission of the Spokane Conservation District

- *To promote the sustainable use of natural resources in Spokane County.*

Water Quality Implementation

- *Completed 5 RMS farm plans on 5,484 acres - Installed one 5,000 ft. grassed waterway - Constructed two sediment basins - Collected 35 water quality samples - Sponsored and organized one water quality workshop with 20 2nd and 6th graders attended - Completed one culvert replacement project.*

Basic Funding

- *Basic funding is used to supplement our urban forestry technical assistance/service program - Technical assistance was provided on 25 sites covering 364 acres - Technical assistance was provided in cooperation with Spokane County on 7 reclamation pit sites - Technical assistance was provided on 16 reforestation projects on 30 acres, planting 8,100 trees - Provided 51 forest information packets to area landowners - Gave 4 school presentations to 230 students.*

Local Funding

- *35-percent of our local assessment was used to fund the update of the Spokane County soil survey. 45,000 acres were mapped in 2003. 582,000 acres have been mapped and digitized since the inception of the project in 1998.*
- *65-percent of our local assessment used as leverage for State Revolving Fund loans. In 2003, we secured \$4.2 million in loan funds to assist producers in converting to minimum tillage operations. We currently have 100 low-interest loan contracts in Spokane County and have \$2 million available for loans in Asotin and Whitman counties.*
- *Avista Corporation donates \$10,000 annually to be used within the Hangman Creek watershed. In 2003, funds were used on the Grunte sediment reduction project, benefiting 400 feet of streambank.*
- *Ducks Unlimited provided The Spokane County Conservation Futures Program funding for 54 acres of riparian and upland restoration on the Feryn property.*

Legislative Activities

- *House bills 1240-43 passed with nearly unanimous support from both houses, both sides of the isle, and both sides of the State. SB5450 allowed NEV's on roads of Washington State.*

Professional Engineering

- *Spokane Conservation District is the administering district for the NE Area engineer. Projects in 2003 were primarily in Ferry and Pend Oreille counties.*

Continuous CRP/County Buffer Program

- *Completed 20 buffer projects - 41,900 feet of streambank was planted using nearly 60,000 trees and shrubs - 250 feet of fence was installed to keep livestock out of waterway - Two irrigation systems were installed; 1,400 feet of irrigation pipe, and one off-creek water system - Two public meetings held; one TV interview with local landowner; numerous newspaper articles printed - Three continuous CRP projects were completed - 6,100 feet of streambank was planted, using 5,000 plants - 350 feet of fence was installed and 3 off-creek water systems were installed.*

Dairy

- Fourteen new Dairy Nutrient Management Plans were developed and reviewed. As of October 31, three DNMP's have been certified, the remaining will be certified by December 31, 2003
- SCCD reviewed soils tests on 11 dairies.
- SCCD and NRCS provided technical assistance to the remaining 11 dairies needing certification resulting in the construction of 2 dry-stack slabs, 1 waste storage lagoon, and 1 off-creek watering facility. SCCD worked cooperatively with NRCS to utilize EQIP funds for the development of the practices listed above.
- SCCD participated in several on-site visits with the WA Dept. of Ecology Dairy Inspector.

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- 47,500 trees and shrubs were planted on 95 acres using WRP riparian funds.
- 2,000 trees and shrubs were planted on 4 acres using WRP upland funds
- 21,320 trees and shrubs were planted on 43 acres using CRP riparian funds.
- 4,050 trees and shrubs were planted on 8.1 acres using CRP upland funds.
- 17,270 feet of stream bank and 1,446 acres benefited from these projects

Little Spokane Watershed

- 10 projects were completed in this watershed - 16,700 plants were installed on 20,000 feet of streambank - 600 feet of fence was installed - 4 off-creek watering systems were installed - Completed Riparian Buffer Assessment - Completed macroinvertebrate study - Completed Nitrate study - 30 stream flow measurements performed - 44,000 stream gage height data points collected from five stream discharge stations - 18,00 daily stream flows calculated.

Hangman Creek Watershed

- 13 projects were completed in this watershed - 47,000 plants were installed on 28,000 feet of streambank - 1,400 feet of irrigation pipe was installed - Conducted 20 watershed meetings and made 10 public presentations - Completed basin hydrologic study - Completed historic vegetation study - Developed water quality booklet for distribution to local land users.

State Revolving Fund

- 100 low-interest loan contracts are in place for conservation related farming equipment and infrastructure - \$1,743,702 is currently on loan, with \$3.5 million still available over the next two years.

Small Farm Programs

- 12,000 feet of fencing was installed on the Kummer project with 4 off-creek water systems and over 30,000 trees and shrubs planted. 10 acres of habitat was affected - 54 acres of riparian and upland restoration on the Feryn project - WCC funds were used to assist 10 landowners and 18,555 plants were installed.

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- Participates in the Local Working Group – Chris Mahelona, Chair - Member of three Chamber of Commerce groups, with seats on the Spokane Natural Resources Committee and local government committee - Review panel for WA state Wetland Rating System for Eastern Washington - Participates in the 2514 process with local communities and governments - Participates in FERC relicensing project for Spokane River - Participates in Spokane River TMDL process - Facilitates the WQ management plan in the Little Spokane River watershed - Participates in the WRIA 55/57 and 34 watershed planning - Facilitates the Hangman Creek Stream Team meetings - Partner in the Clean Cities Coalition

Information & Education

- 150 advertisements were aired for the County Buffer project on two local stations reaching approximately 40,000 listeners daily. Sponsorship of the new program ran daily adding another 40 paid advertisements. Twenty PSA's were aired for this same project.
- Over 40 public presentations/meetings were held re: alternative energy. This included grower's meetings, community events, Clean Cities Coalition, etc. Four press releases were produced along with 24 radio/TV interviews and electronic stories, and 12 news articles.



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